

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

**Notice of Intent to Repatriate Native American Items in the Possession of the Hood Museum of Art,
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice

Notice is hereby given in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001 *et seq.*) of the intent to repatriate cultural items that are currently in the possession of the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, and meet the definition of "sacred object" and "object of cultural patrimony" under 25 U.S.C. 3001.

Two items are covered by this notice. The first item, identified by the catalog number 46.17.10084 is a 22 cm. long, hand carved wooden cylinder with a shouldered conical point. Tied under the shoulder with a white cotton cord are three brown and white feathers with some red pigment added. At about the mid-point of the cylinder are five large brown and white feathers, a miniature red bow and two red arrows, two small shells, five small white downy feathers, three small blue feathers, and a circular wooden rim webbed with white cord.

The second item, 46.17.10085, is similar to the first but differs in some of the specific details. The wooden cylinder is 44 cms long, has a shouldered tip, and there are four downy feathers and two small blue ones attached at the mid-point.

Both items were collected in 1903 at the Zuni Pueblo by Frank and Clara Churchill. Frank Churchill was a Special Federal Inspector of Indian Schools who bequeathed his collection to Dartmouth College in 1946.

After reviewing the written and photographic documentation provided by the museum, the Zuni Cultural Advisory Team, made up of traditional religious leaders, identified both items as prayer sticks. The Team determined that the items described above are culturally affiliated with the Zuni Tribe and they are to be associated with the Ahayu:da or Twin Gods. The Team indicated that if they are not in their rightful shrine home on the Zuni Reservation, they have been illegally removed. Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3005 the Governor of the Pueblo of Zuni, on behalf of the religious leaders and Tribal Council, has formally requested the repatriation of the two prayer sticks described above.

Based on the above mentioned information, officials of the Hood Museum have determined that, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), there is a relationship of shared group identity which can be reasonably traced between the prayer sticks and the Pueblo of Zuni. Officials of the Hood Museum have also determined that the prayer sticks meet the definition of sacred object pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001 (3)(C). The Hood Museum of Art has no objection to this request.

Authorities of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have been contacted regarding applicability of Federal endangered species statutes to this transfer and have concurred in the conclusion that the objects are not covered due to their age.

This notice has been sent to officials of the Pueblo of Zuni. Representatives of any other Indian tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with these prayer sticks should contact Kellen G. Haak, Registrar and Repatriation Coordinator, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755, telephone (603) 646-3109 before August 4, 1995. Repatriation of these prayer sticks to the Pueblo of Zuni may begin after that date if no additional claimants come forward.

Dated: June 29, 1995

Veletta Canouts

Acting Departmental Consulting Archeologist and

Acting Chief, Archeological Assistance Division

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